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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 235, November 14, 2 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 235, INFORMATION STOCKHOLM 44, COPENHAGEN 41, OSLO 37, BONN 37, MOSCOW 51, PARIS 46, LONDON 175

Secrecy being maintained re Karjalainen Moscow talks with Gromyko. Karjalainen returned last evening. Soviet Ambassador Azkharov went to Moscow and returned to Helsinki on same trains as Karjalainen. Upon arrival Helsinki, Karjalainen met with cabinet. President delivering previously arranged lecture at time his arrival. Karjalainen and Prime Minister subsequently met with President. Parliamentary leaders to be "informed" today.

According information published here, Karjalainen, Finn Ambassador Wuori*, and advisors met nearly 2 hours November 11 with Gromyko, Sobolev, Ljunkov, Streltsov and Soviet Ambassador Azkharov. Present at luncheon same day in addition to above there First Vice Foreign Minister Kusnetsov, Protocol Chief Molotshkov and Finn Embassy Counselor Suomela. Karjalainen guest of Gromyko at theater same evening. Remainder of trip devoted to sight-seeing and theater in company of Ljunkov. According press, Karjalainen sent private report to President Kekkonen and Prime Minister Mielttunen late November 11.

In absence new information, 2 major papers again commented today on implications Soviet note.

Conservative UUSI SUOMI noted Paasikivi opinion that Soviet interest in Finland primarily question of military security and that it "best" for all concerned if military clauses

1948

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-2- 235, November 14, 2 p.m., from Helsinki

1948 Treaty remain "devoid of practical application". Paper states that, although it sees no ground invoke military clauses 1948 Treaty, "accusations" in heat of domestic political disputes have aroused suspicions that people not solidly behind Finnish commitment prevent use Finnish territory against USSR. Says in order convince "all outsiders" Finland desires fulfill obligations "in any circumstances" more "constructive and conciliatory language in domestic discussion" needed. Adds government and parliament should set example.

Agrarian, MAAKANSÄ writes Finnish position difficult because if threat of attack established, consequent military negotiations with Soviets would jeopardize neutrality. "Certainly" conduct of such negotiations on basis other than threat of attack "could" cause "certain circles" doubt Finland's neutrality. Neutrality has value to extent it recognized elsewhere and thus hope Finland can avoid actions placing it in doubt. Paper concluded: "Serious questions" being faced and "no matter what action President and government take, we must believe they based on thorough and correct evaluation of situation."

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